

**US Patent Application Number: 10/673,688**

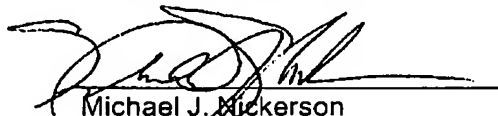
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

As presented above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 7 and intervening claim 5.

Accordingly, in view of all amendments and reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the present rejections. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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